

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 4, 7-9, 13 and 16.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented) A negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:
  - a lithium metal;
  - a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, the pre-treatment layer having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  S/cm; and
  - a protection layer for the lithium metal comprising  $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$ , where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.
6. (Original) The negative electrode of claim 5, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises  $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$ .
7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Canceled).
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 5, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is  $\text{Li}_3\text{PO}_4$ .
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 5, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ion conductive material ranges from  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  S/cm to  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  S/cm.
13. (Canceled).
14. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a negative electrode for a lithium sulfur battery comprising:  
depositing a pre-treatment layer on a lithium metal under an inert gas atmosphere, the pre-treatment layer being deposited to a thickness ranging from about 50 to about 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  S/cm; and  
depositing a protection layer for the lithium metal on the pre-treatment layer, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises  $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$ , where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises  $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$ .

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16. (Canceled).

17. (Original) A lithium sulfur battery comprising:

a negative electrode comprising a lithium metal, a pre-treatment layer formed on the lithium metal, having a thickness of 50 to 5000Å and including a lithium ion conductive material with an ionic conductivity of at least  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  S/cm, and a protection layer for the lithium metal;  
a positive electrode comprising a positive active material selected from the group consisting of elemental sulfur, sulfur-based compounds, and mixtures thereof; and  
an electrolyte.

18. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is  $\text{Li}_x\text{PO}_y$ , where  $2 < x < 4$  and  $3 < y < 5$ .

19. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 18, wherein the lithium ion conductive material is  $\text{Li}_3\text{PO}_4$ .

20. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the ionic conductivity of the lithium ionic conductive material ranges from  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  S/cm to  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  S/cm.

21. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises  $\text{Li}_a\text{PO}_b\text{N}_c$ , where a is 2 to 4, b is 3 to 5, and c is 0.1 to 0.9.

22. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 21, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal comprises  $\text{Li}_{2.9}\text{PO}_{3.3}\text{N}_{0.46}$ .

23. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer for the lithium metal has a thickness of 1000Å to 50µm.

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24. (Original) The lithium sulfur battery of claim 17, wherein the protection layer is formed on the pre-treatment layer.